



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: August 12, 2012

Number: 23

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 12, 2012

Crop improvement had been noted across the state as widespread, scattered thunderstorms have revitalized many crops and pasture lands. Continued improved soil moisture levels and moderate temperatures have allowed crops in dryer areas to recover significantly. Days suitable for field work were 5.4. Soybeans are responding positively to improved weather conditions, while cotton and peanuts are having a great year. The heat has diminished the quality of some tobacco in central Virginia. Many farmers are seeing the first hatchings of corn earworm and armyworms, with some kudzu bugs in the southern regions. Farmer's activities this week included scouting and spraying for pests, attending field days and preparing for the harvest season.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 12, 2012	5	32	58	5
August 5, 2012	18	31	50	1
July 29, 2012	19	32	48	1
July 22, 2012	14	35	48	3
July 15, 2012	18	46	34	2

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 12, 2012	5	45	48	2
August 5, 2012	16	45	38	1
July 29, 2012	17	41	40	2
July 22, 2012	15	42	40	3
July 15, 2012	16	56	28	0

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**



Virginia Tech

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Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	4	21	38	35	2
Livestock	1	4	25	54	16
Hay, Other	6	26	34	30	4
Hay, Alfalfa	0	7	22	62	9
Corn	17	25	26	25	7
Soybeans	2	12	29	42	15
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	8	20	35	28	9
Tobacco, Burley	1	4	33	44	18
Tobacco, Dark Fire	15	22	35	26	2
Peanuts	0	2	8	60	30
Cotton	0	0	12	32	56
Apples, All	19	0	34	47	0
Grapes	0	0	9	90	1
Oats	0	0	31	63	6

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	98	95	97	97
Corn Dough	85	65	75	77
Corn Dent	57	42	51	48
Corn Silage Harvested	54	43	24	22
Soybeans Blooming	74	54	69	74
Soybeans Setting Pods	39	21	42	41
Tobacco, Flue Harvested	17	0	19	22
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	2	0	8	4
Tobacco, Dark Fire Harvested	2	0	29	12
Peanuts Pegged	96	93	84	87
Cotton Setting Bolls	97	87	74	83
Cotton Bolls Opening	1	0	2	6
Apples, Summer Harvested	44	40	54	56
Apples, Fall Harvested	22	0	0	0
Peaches Harvested	70	56	65	66
Oats for Grain Harvested	24	0	0	4

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING August 12, 2012

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Aug. 11	Mar. 1 to Aug. 11 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	87	68	91	63	78	3	2891	2546	0.44	5.37	-4.05	20.77	-6.55
Norfolk	88	74	92	71	81	3	3307	2798	1.50	11.60	0.86	28.06	-1.16
Richmond	88	73	92	69	80	3	3229	2766	0.32	10.64	0.88	22.95	-4.70
Roanoke	87	69	92	66	78	2	3059	NA	1.04	8.34	-0.62	22.83	-4.02
Wash/Dulles	90	70	94	67	80	4	2930	NA	1.04	5.82	-2.99	18.63	-7.24

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

Locally corn, beans and pasture have fared very well. Continued rains have kept things growing well.

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

We have been receiving scattered thunderstorms. Crop conditions are looking better.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Conditions are on track for improvements to the soybean crop, hay fields and pastures. Hopefully the trend will continue without any future weather damage.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

We received widespread rain (0.5 - 1 inch) over most of the county during the week. Conditions were such that most field work was not hindered. Dark tobacco harvest will speed up over the next two weeks.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Weather conditions for crops have been improving. Hopefully this will continue.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

We received scattered showers several days last week. Some got lots of rain and some got none. Generally the county is in decent shape for rainfall now, with some spot shortages and some spot overages. At my western Hanover home I had 1.1 inches in overnight rains this week. The corn crop is still mostly toast. Temperatures have moderated some this week and with lower temps and rain, beans are actually starting to look fairly good. Grass is growing again and there may be a chance for a late cutting of hay.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Rainfall amounts varied from about .5 inch to over 1.5 inches during Friday and Saturday. This will continue to help soybeans, pastures, and hay fields. A few farmers started harvesting corn with poor yields ranging from 25 - 60 bushels per acre. Farmers were busy attending field days and scouting soybeans for insects. Some soybean fields reached the economic threshold for corn earworms and were treated. Some producers also treated soybean fields with fungicides.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Recent rains have things looking better. Soybeans loved it. Producers are scouting for worms and making some insecticide applications. Small corn earworm and armyworm is the most prevalent pest. Producers are hustling to protect the high value crop. Field days, small grains seed and supply orders, scouting fields, equipment repair and supply purchases were the activities of the week.

WESTMORELAND (Stephanie Romelczyk)

Scattered storms throughout last week brought much needed rain to some areas of Westmoreland County including Montross, Leedstown, and Mount Holly.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

several areas in the county have received rain within the last few weeks, while others have not. The rain has been scattered throughout the county. Corn and soybean growth is all dependent on where the rain has hit the most. The ground is still dry. Corn silage is being harvested in some areas already. With the rain, pastures are looking a little better in the county but some are still lacking.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

(Southern Continued)

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

We have been getting some rain fairly regularly which is helping the beans. The corn was already too far gone for it to help much. The beans are looking pretty good, especially on the eastern end of the county in Dundas. They have gotten more rain than the rest of the county and the beans and tobacco there look pretty good. The heat, however, has taken a toll on the quality of the tobacco produced even though most of the yield has held up. The first round of flue harvest has taken place -- the bottom leaves have been pulled. The livestock looks pretty good and the pastures are greening up a bit, but hay is still being fed. Many are still hoping the final hay cutting will make up for the lack of hay production thus far. Hit and miss storms have provided some damage to structures but no real damage to crops has been reported.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Rain this week has been helpful to crops, the wind and lightening posed concern for producers. There have been some trees and such hit this past week by lightening. Vegetables have been hard hit by the hot and humid weather. This past week temperatures were lower and helped with some folks getting many outdoor chores completed.

DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)

It is still dry in areas of the county and corn ear worm numbers are picking up in hot spots. Treatable Stink bug damage in cotton was found in several fields on Friday. A few Kudzu bugs were found in the southern part of the county last week.

(Southeastern continued)

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Corn earworm scouting and spraying were the main activities this week. Some fields reached threshold late last week and were treated over the weekend. Other activities included cutting hay, planted fall vegetable crops, and mowing around farmsteads.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Recent showers have crops in Surry looking better than we have seen in many years. Soybeans, peanuts, and cotton are being scouted closely for disease and insects. Record prices have producers concerned with maximizing yields on every acre.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

More heavy showers fell over our area giving us some much needed moisture and crops are doing good especially cotton, peanut, and soybean. Growers continue to scout for diseases and insects.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Corn harvest will begin for a few farmers next week. The first hatching of small corn earworms was seen this week in soybean scouting. Expect some spraying to begin next week. There is an abundance of produce at Farmers' Markets. Farmers are attending a few Field Day events before harvest season begins. Farmers are hoping for some rain-free days as our fields are blessed with adequate moisture.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Rain is still abundant in our area. Scouting in soybeans has been ramped up with the results being mixed. Worms seem to be spotty at this point. Some farmers have gone with aerial applications since ground applications of insecticides at this point are not possible for some of our farms due to the saturated conditions. The rains have caused issues for the vegetable producers as well.

